



DANGER PATTERNS (DP): [dp.3 - rain](#) [dp.5 - snowfall after a long period of cold](#) [dp.1 - deep persistent weak layer](#)

Rainfall, snowfall, strong winds: increasing avalanche danger

AVALANCHE DANGER

Avalanche danger will increase as of the moment precipitation begins at midday, soon reaching CONSIDERABLE in the western regions where precipitation will be heaviest (elsewhere mostly moderate, above 2000m sometimes considerable). In southern regions the danger will remain low. Two major problems threaten: on the one hand, the rain which for a short time will extend up to 2000m will make the snowpack thoroughly wet, it will thereby forfeit its firmness. Thus, increasingly frequent wet-snowslides can be expected on extremely steep slopes. Also gliding avalanches will be more frequent on steep, grass-covered slopes. The other problem arises from the snowdrifts which will accumulate afresh above 2000m, particularly on steep, shady slopes. These drifts can be triggered quite frequently by minimum additional loading. In the western regions which will get the most snow, even naturally triggered avalanches can be expected. Due to below-average snow depths, the avalanches which are triggered are expected to be small.

SNOW LAYERING

Rain, snow, wind will have negative impact on the snowpack in many places. Rain will make it lose its firmness, especially on shady slopes where the snowpack is loosely packed. Moreover, the long period of cold has transformed the snowpack surface to faceted-crystal snow. The bonding of the newly formed snowdrifts to this old snowpack surface will be very poor, the proneness to triggering correspondingly high. In addition, there are possible weak layers near the ground above 2300m, particularly on shady slopes, to some extent also on east and west-facing slopes.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: a small low over eastern Germany is thrusting mild-moist air masses from the Atlantic to Tirol. The low will move to the southeast towards the Czech Republic and Hungary tomorrow and then disperse. As of Thursday, a foehn southwesterly air current will hit the Alps. Mountain weather today: those who despite the weather venture out into backcountry will meet up with lots of fog, strong to stormy winds in exposed terrain, and snowfall. Particularly in the Northern Alps the snowfall will be heavy, with a focus in the Lechtal Alps and the Arlberg. Temperature at 2000m: -1 degree; at 3000m: -6 degrees. Strong to stormy W/NW winds at high altitudes.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

Beware fresh snowdrift accumulations, esp. on shady slopes

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